REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected as anticipated by Joao (U.S. Patent 5,917,405). Applicant requests reconsideration of such rejection.

Referring to claim 1, such claim recites, in pertinent part, a system comprising a personal digital assistant having an output port coupled thereto, the personal digital assistant being configured to provide data to the output port indicating a predetermined event has occurred in response to occurrence of the predetermined event. Claim 1 further recites that the system includes actuator circuitry having a digital to analog converter coupled to the output port being configured to provide an analog signal in response to the data being applied to the digital input, the actuator circuitry including a conductor configured to be coupled between a vehicle's horn and the analog output of the digital to analog converter.

The Examiner is reminded that a claim may be rejected as anticipated by a reference only if each and every element of the claim is set forth with the same level of detail in the reference as is contained in the claim (MPEP §2131, 8th Ed.). Claim 1 is believed allowable over the cited reference for at least the reason that the cited reference does not teach or suggest a system including a personal digital assistant configured to provide data to an output port coupled to actuator circuitry that includes a digital to analog converter.

In the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner erroneously characterizes the apparatus (i.e., CPU 4, ROM 5, RAM 6, Receiver 3) in direct connection with the vehicle equipment system 11 of Joao's Fig. 1 as a personal digital assistant that is physically connected to the vehicle equipment systems. (Pages 7 and 8 of Office Action). Applicant disagrees.

So far removed is Joao from the embodiments of the present application it is nonanalogous. Put in context, Joao discloses an automobile tracking and alarm system. Apparently from figure 1, the system includes a CPU that is capable of receiving data from a transmitter and broadcasting data to a field position and locating system receiver. The very essence of a car alarm is to alarm a third party that the car is being stolen in situations where the party is not sufficiently proximate to the car to prevent or appreciate the car being stolen or vandalized. In

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those situations car alarms send out signals to remote devices and, as Joao indicates, those remote devices can be personal digital assistants.

The equipment in direct connection with vehicle equipment system 11 cannot be considered a personal digital assistant. While Joao teaches the use of a personal digital assistant as a transmitter/receiver outside the vehicle, it does not teach the use of a personal digital assistant as a receiver in the vehicle. The Joao reference itself distinguishes the apparatus (CPU4, ROM5, RAM 6, Receiver 3) from a personal digital assistant, since the inventors were aware of personal digital assistant technology but did not disclose use of a personal digital assistant in the vehicle.

The Examiner's characterization of Joao's components connected to vehicle equipment systems 11 as a personal digital assistant is erroneous. The vehicle equipment system interface 12, central processing unit 4, ROM 5, RAM 6, and receiver 3 do not define a personal digital assistant.

The Examiner is reminded that words of a claim must be given their plain meaning unless they are defined in the specification. (*See, MPEP 2111.01, 8th Ed.*) This plain meaning refers to the meaning given to the term by those of ordinary skill in the art. Id.

A personal digital assistant is a term of art. The term personal digital assistant conveys to one of ordinary skill in the art a hand-held device including at least a processor and contact manager (address book) functionality. A personal digital assistant is a term for any small, mobile, hand-held device that provides computing and information storage and retrieval capabilities for personal or business use, often for keeping schedule calendars and address book information handy. Most personal digital assistant's have a graphical user interface. See, for example, the following definition from http://searchcio.com/:

> PDA (personal digital assistant) is a term for any small mobile hand-held device that provides computing and information storage and retrieval capabilities for personal or business use, often for keeping schedule calendars and address book information handy. The term handheld is a synonym. Many people use the name of one of the popular PDA products as a generic term. These include Hewlett-Packard's Palmtop and 3Com's PalmPilot.

Most PDAs have a small keyboard. Some PDAs have an electronically sensitive pad on which handwritng can be received. Apple's Newton, which has been withdrawn from the market, was the first widely-sold PDA that accepted handwriting. Typical uses include schedule and address book storage and retrieval and note-entering. However, many applications have been written for PDAs. Increasingly, PDAs are combined with telephones and paging systems.

Some PDAs offer a variation of the Microsoft Windows operating system called Windows CE. Other products have their own or another operating system.

Applicant's invention allows a personal digital assistant to continue to be used as a personal digital assistant when not used in a vehicle. The apparatus described by Joao and relied on by the Examiner to meet the personal digital assistant limitation on the other hand, is hardwired to multiple components, namely the receiver 3 and vehicle equipment system 12 and is therefore not suitable as and therefore cannot be considered a personal digital assistant.

Joao only references the use of a personal digital assistant within the context of it being used as a car alarm receiver. With reference to Fig. 1, Joao teaches that receiver 3, transmitter 2 and vehicle position and locator system receiver 14 none of which are hardwired to the other. Receiver 3 is characterized as a receiver for receiving signals which are transmitted by transmitter system 2. According to Joao receiver 3 may be any receiver "which is capable of receiving the remote electrical, electronic, electromagnetic or any other signals, which may be transmitted by the transmitter system 2." (Column 19, lines 50-60.) Joao describes a personal communication device(s) or personal communication services (PCS) device(s) as any of the transmitter/receiver system combinations. According to Joao the communication systems include "interactive and/or digital televisions, personal communication devices, personal communications services (PCS) devices, telephones, including telephones which utilize analog or digital technology, personal digital assistants, cellular telephones, display telephones, video telephones, display cellular telephones, and electrically equipped watches, beepers, pagers, or paging systems and/or other devices and/or other personal effects and/or accessories may also be utilized for interactive use and/or for the display or output applications

and/or functions." (Column 22, lines 60-67 and column 23, lines 1-5.) Because Joao teaches the use of a personal digital assistant for the display of output applications or functions, it is clear that within the context of Joao the personal digital assistant is outside the vehicle as either a transmitter 2 or vehicle position and locating system receiver 14 (as shown in Joao's Fig. 1), home and or personal computer 150 (as shown in Joao's Fig. 5A), website 520 and 954 (as shown in Figs. 5B and 11B), or central security office 950 (as shown in Fig. 11A).

As stated previously, this makes sense in view of the fact that Joao is concerned with automobile theft. In the context of Joao, transmitter 2 may be used to receive data from the vehicle. And because Joao teaches the use of personal digital assistant to receive automobile theft data such as alarm signal and location, it would be nonsensical for Joao to teach hardwiring a personal digital assistant to a vehicle to receive data such as alarm or location.

Joao interpreted most reasonably, describes the use of a personal digital assistant to receive data <u>from</u> a vehicle, <u>not</u> to receive data <u>within</u> a vehicle and use the systems of the automobile to notify parties that an event has been received. In sum, Joao does not teach or suggest personal digital assistant configured to provide data to an output port coupled to actuator circuitry that includes a digital to analog converter. For at least the reason that the cited reference does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim1, claim 1 is allowable. Applicant requests allowance of claim 1 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 2-8 all depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1.

Referring next to claim 9, such claim recites a personal digital assistant-vehicle interface system that includes a personal digital assistant having a serial output port and actuator circuitry configured to be coupled to the serial output port of the personal digital assistant. As stated above, Joao does not teach or suggest the use of a personal digital assistant coupled to a vehicle in this fashion.

Claim 9 is therefore allowable for at least the reason that it recites limitations not shown or suggested in the art. Applicant requests allowance of claim 9 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 10-16 depend from claim 9 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 9.

Claim 17 recites a method that includes providing a personal digital assistant having an output port, configuring the personal digital assistant to provide data to the output port converting digital data at the output port to an analog signal and using the analog signal to actuate an electrically actuated vehicle component. As stated above Joao does not teach or suggest the use of a personal digital assistant in connection with a vehicle in this manner. Claim 17 is therefore allowable for at least the reason that it recites limitations not shown or suggested in the art. Applicant requests allowance of claim 17 in the Examiner's next action.

Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 17.

New claim 21 recites, in pertinent part, a personal digital assistant including a graphical user interface. As recited above, Joao does not teach or suggest a personal digital assistant including a graphical user interface having an output port coupled to actuator circuitry. For at least this reason, claim 21 is allowable. Furthermore, new claim 21 does not contain new matter and is supported by the specification at, for example, page 1 of the specification.

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Having addressed all the issued raised by the Examiner in the last action, this application is believed to be in immediate allowance and action to that end is requested. If the next anticipated Office Action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowability, applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _September 9, 2003_ By _____

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